

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Bates for her careful review of this application. Consideration of the present application in view of the remarks and amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-144 were subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

Group I, claims 1-63, drawn to a method of assembling a tubular string

Group II, claims 64-127, drawn to a tubular apparatus

Group III, claims 128-141, drawn to a method and apparatus for extracting

Group IV, claims 142-144, drawn to a method of leak testing

Applicant hereby elects Group I, corresponding to claims 1-63, for examination.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the unelected groups in a divisional or continuation application. Consideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-63 have been maintained in their original form and claims 64 - 144 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a divisional or continuation application. Thus, claims 1-63 are pending and under active prosecution.

CONCLUSION

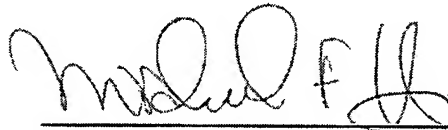
The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 6, 2007. Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of the application by submitting arguments in support of the patentability of claims 1-144. Applicants have not acquiesced to any rejection and reserves the right to address the patentability of any additional claim features in the future. In view of the above, consideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-63 is respectfully requested.

As the one-month statutory period for reply expires on October 6, 2007, this Response is therefore considered timely filed and no fees are believed to be due. However, should the Commissioner deem any fees as being due, including any fees for any extensions of time, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit said fees from, or to credit any overpayments to, USPTO Deposit Account Number 50-3786, Reference No. 14147.105101.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at the number listed below if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Hay", written over a horizontal line.

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